




1

INTRODUCTION

- *“public” Christian from a Two-Kingdom standpoint.*
- *The uniqueness of the American context*
- *opportunities and challenges to be the Church for others in this country.*



2

2KG Voice:

“A Voice that Differentiates and Unites!”

- It differentiates God’s actions, which put politics in its proper place
- Good politics can’t save us, bad politics can destroy us
- Our perspective – Reformation restraint seeking Justice...calm in the storm
- God’s created order, and His moral ordering of the world is a “Beautiful thing”

3

The Main role of the Government – American Polity for a Civil society

- a. Protect the **God-given rights**
- b. Declaration of Independence – *We hold these truths to be self-evident*
- c. *Limits governmental power, "enumerated" powers*
 - i. 3 branches
 - ii. America **CITIZEN** (not **SUBJECT**)



4



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6

Christians Engage with a Unique Perspective

- **With a Christlike Mind – Ph. 2**
 - Honors the preserving work of the Father
 - Proclaims the saving work of God without restraint
- **2 Kingdom Principles for Public Engagement**
 - A Dynamic Differentiating Mindset
 - Reformation Restraint seeking Justice
 - Vocational Respect seeking the Truth



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HOW SHALL WE ENGAGE??

- **DYNAMIC DIFFERENTIATION –**
 - *Involved, but with tempered expectations of what “we” can do, and unlimited expectations of what God can do!*
- **REFORMATION RESTRAINT SEEKING JUSTICE –**
 - Because God is at work even when I can’t see it amidst the chaos of the moment
 - (Revolution is always a defensive strategy....like protecting one’s home from the intruder....there are certain lines that must be crossed for that to be true (Where do you think the Geneva Convention rules came from anyway!!))
 - The Pastor at FERGUSON

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HOW SHALL WE ENGAGE??

- **VOCATIONAL RESPECT SEEKING THE TRUTH**
 - All the commandments from 4-10 have two functions....one, to all (by virtue of conscience and our common ancestry as creations of God)....curb, order a sinful society.
 - **Dignity of Family** as more than relationship, as foundation of community, of society, fostering honor, not just love;
 - **Sanctity of Life**, Sanctity of human relationship as reflection of God’s love,
 - **Purpose of Property** (Work to give),
 - **Honor of one’s name** (The Bus – Pittsburgh Steelers),
 - **The proper understanding of all gifts** (wife, husband, family, goods, workers...from God for purpose of honoring and serving)




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PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT - WITH TWO-KINGDOM GUIDANCE.....

- A. **with the pre-eminence of Grace over Law**, with the penultimate work of the state in relationship to the Church....
- B. Christians **boldly proclaim the Gospel, and humbly apply the law**....AND IN REFERENCE TO PUBLIC, MORAL POLICY.....
- C. **WE HAVE A GRID OF ENGAGEMENT** THAT HONORS BOTH GOD'S PRESERVING AND SAVING WORK....
- D. **PREFERRING A and B, to C and D**....but doing C and D when necessary!


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THE PUBLIC POLICY ENGAGEMENT GRID

THE CHURCH THROUGH ITS PEOPLE AS INDIVIDUALS....FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE....

- A) **INDIRECT AND UNINTENTIONAL** – Through individuals (Prot. Work ethic, commitment to service etc)
- B) **INDIRECT AND INTENTIONAL** – Through individuals (talk about in Bible study, small groups etc. with no direct application)


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THE PUBLIC POLICY ENGAGEMENT GRID

THE CHURCH AS AN INSTITUTIONAL VOICE – AS ONE BE CERTAIN - THUS SAITH THE LORD!


- C) **DIRECT AND UNINTENTIONAL** – Church as a whole speaks prophetically
- D) **DIRECT AND INTENTIONAL** – The realm of Civil Disobedience? Church as a whole – engages the issue with time, talent, treasure to fight for a specific end.


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PUBLIC POLICY, PUBLIC ISSUES.....
What kind of Questions are they??

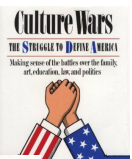
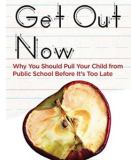
- Are they WWJD questions??
- Are they WWFD questions??
- Are they WWJRD questions??




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Present Day Realities

- There is a cultural War (see James Davison Hunter)
- There is virtual black out to the Christian worldview in our cities, in our schools, in our universities (See, "Get out Now!")
- There is a political movement to politicize, demonize, even criminalize the Christian Worldview (See the litigation around the country, SEE ALSO the book "Get Out Now")

Mary Rice Hanson ©13 Theresa Farnham




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THE CHALLENGE...MUST WE FACE IT?

- Robert Reich, former Labor Secretary for President Bill Clinton, said,
- "The **true battle (of the 21st Century)** will be between the modern society and the anti-modernists;
 - between those who believe....
 - **primacy of the individual** vs. **an allegiance and identity to a higher authority;**
 - **priority to life in this world** vs. **human life is a mere preparation for existence beyond life;**
 - **In science, reason, and logic** vs. **truth revealed through Scripture and religious dogma;**
- "Terrorism will disrupt and destroy lives. But, it is not the greatest danger that we face."

•WHAT??????????

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Religious Liberty and the New Usurpation

a. "Live and Let Live" vs. "the weaponization of politics"

* annihilating legit moral differences by law

b. Usurpation of representative government through judicial fiat

- Ex. - "The 9th circuit court disenfranchisement of Black Americans concerning the PROP 8 law in California, 2008.



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Challenges/Opportunities for being a PUBLIC Christian.....**FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS!**

a. *Meyer v. the State of Nebraska* – 1920, to speak German or not to speak German in education and worship.

Some Good Ones....

- Walter Maier**, the Lutheran Hour, and Free Religious Speech – Repeal of Prohibition and the saving of religious programming!
- Hosanna Tabor** Lutheran School v. EEOC – Can we hire confessional believers?
- Trinity Lutheran Church** v. Comer - in Columbia, MO

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ENGAGE FOR THE SAKE OF MISSION

- ENGAGE THE WORLD AS GOD ENGAGES IT
 - TO PRESERVE
 - AND TO SAVE
- FIGHT FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY WITHOUT POLITICIZING THE GOSPEL
- IN AMERICA - EXERCISE OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTIES
 - FOR THE SAKE OF THE CULTURE
 - FOR THE SAKE OF THE MISSION
 - FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS!!

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FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS!.....
Challenges/Opportunities for being a PUBLIC Christian

E. MASTERPIECE CAKESHOP – Jack Philips (Is this justice?)

f. NIFLA – Compelled Speech is NOT free speech

g. HHS mandate - LCMS, the Little Sisters of the Poor – If this is not government overreach, what is?

H. OBERGEFELL, AND BOSTOCK.....

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Challenges and Opportunities for being a PUBLIC Christian.....

SUCH A TIME AS THIS.....

- **THE EQUALITY ACT, THE "VA VALUES ACT" – Target? The Church**
 - * **SOGI LAWS** – Chaplaincy, schools, Universities.... Churches?
 - * **SOGI LAWS** – adoption agencies, transgender bathrooms, decertification of any who don't hold specific LGBT views.
 - * Christian Faith in Jesus ALONE – disqualifies Christians from public service?



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THE POINT

FOR THIS TIME - The point of public engagement???

- Defensive??? To some degree, BUT
- Speak the Truth in Love...
- Always be ready to give an account...
- Left Hand Kingdom "pre-evangelism?"



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Thank YOU


Dr. Gregory P. Seltz, PhD

Executive Director, LCRL

Speaker Emeritus, The Lutheran Hour

Email – Gregory.seltz@lcrlfreedom.org

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